



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Walla Walla District

# News Release

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## **Walla Walla District power team powers-up Kansas (Update)**

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – Seven members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 10-person power team from Walla Walla District returned to Washington Monday after supporting FEMA and state emergency operations in Kansas, the team's action officer reported today.

Walla Walla District sent the emergency power team to Kansas City, Mo., on Dec. 11, to assist FEMA Region VII efforts to restore power to tens of thousands of people hit by ice storms last week. All power team members arrived in Kansas City by the morning of Dec. 12 to provide emergency power technical assistance at FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) there. On Dec. 13, half of the team was sent to augment the state emergency operations center (EOC) in Topeka.

The team's activities in Kansas are not typical of past power team deployments. During 2005 hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf region, the power team did much of the delivery and installation of emergency generators. This mission calls for the power team to support state and FEMA operations in more of a coordination and technical-advisory role.

During the past week, the team provided technical assistance and installation trouble-shooting for almost 40 emergency generators sent out to power public facilities all across Kansas, said Power Team Action Officer Dave Coleman (operations manager at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash.).

Coleman, and two other team members – a mission manager and a logistics specialist – are supporting the state EOC in Topeka. Emergency management officials in Walla Walla anticipate the remaining team members will return by the end of the week.

Walla Walla District's emergency power team consists of civilian employees who volunteer to help FEMA provide backup electrical power generation anywhere an emergency makes the service needed. Team members agree to be in an on-call status, ready to deploy on short-notice when disaster strikes.

Team members include four from the Walla Walla District Headquarters in Walla Walla, Wash.; two from Ice Harbor Lock and Dam near Burbank, Wash.; two from Little Goose Lock and Dam, near Starbuck, Wash.; one from Lower Granite Natural Resources Management Office, in Clarkston, Wash.; and one from McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore.

The seven team members who have returned from Kansas to the Walla Walla District are: Mike Deccio, mission specialist (NWW HQ, Operations Division, engineering technician); Craig Rockwell, mission specialist (Lower Granite Natural Resource Management Office, natural resource specialist); Judy Turner, mission liaison (Little Goose Lock and Dam, power plant operator); Patti Record, contract specialist (NWW HQ, Contracting Division, contract specialist); Lee Harmon, logistics specialist (Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, electrician); Ken Wandersheid, power quality assurance (McNary Lock and Dam, electronic system control craftworker-in-charge); and John Brennan, power quality assurance (NWW-HQ, Cost Engineering Branch, electrical engineer).

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** The names of power team members are released only with members' permission until their mission is complete and they have arrived safely home. This release policy is for their protection – we don't want to unnecessarily place their property and/or family at greater risk of criminal activity by announcing they are gone for an extended period of time.

**PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07\\_files/NR07.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR07_files/NR07.htm)**  
**CLICK on "photographs" link**

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